

field, the seed sown by Carlyle and Ruskin,
Dickens and
Darwin, was sprouting vigorously in lively
looking seeds
If many were troubled about their souls, and
more about
the souls of their fellows, the outlook was
fundamentally
cheerful. Evils there were, but they could be
remedied
above all, by the resolute use of intelligence,
science and
good will. Man might be the creature of his
environment,
but he had power to change it. Wider
knowledge, more
science, would surely see him growing in
stature and in
scope. So, the general effect of scientific
discovery, the
emergence of a scientific attitude, and the
whole body
of new views as to the nature of the universe
identified
with the names of Darwin, Tyndall, Huxley
and the rest,
was to make men feel that while an immense
number of
things needed doing, they could be done.

Everything mattered. Everyone had a
great but also
a joyous responsibility. The new world
opening out was
far richer, so it seemed, as well as far more
various and
interesting than the old. With the swift
development of
means of international communication of
every kind, it
was beginning to be the integrated modern
world, without
yet having become either so large or so
dense and tight
as to blast the imagination. It was a world in
which
everything was open to question and nothing
taken for
granted, although the questioners could still
hug the joy
of feeling themselves to be in a minority—bold
bands of
revolutionaries in an environment on which

they could
look down Whether Wagner, who died in
1883, was a
mere wilful cacophomst or a bold widener of the
boundaries
of music whether Whistler was enriching or
merely insulting
the public taste these were matters of
exhilarating controversy
There were fierce discussions, of
impassioned
gravity, on the relations between art and
morality, such
as are inconceivable to-day, when everyone
feels he is an
artist, if only in "life," and there is no
morality. The